



*Response to Election and Amendment*

*Election/Restrictions*

Applicant's election with traverse of Claims 42-54 in the reply filed on 1-13-2005 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that a preliminary amendment cancelled Claims 1-41 and added new and non-restricted Claims 42-54. This is found persuasive. The restriction requirement is rescinded and moot.

*Allowable Subject Matter*

Claims 42-54 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record neither teaches or suggests a splittable multi-lumen catheter assembly as claimed whereas a first lumen disposed on a first side of the longitudinal plane, wherein the first lumen includes a first distal end tube, wherein the first distal end tube includes at least one of a tongue and a groove disposed proximate to the longitudinal plane; and a second lumen disposed on a second side of the longitudinal plane, wherein the second lumen includes a second distal end tube, wherein the second distal end tube includes at least the other of the tongue and the groove disposed proximate to the longitudinal plane; wherein each of the at least one tongue is disposable across the longitudinal plane into a respective at least one groove and wherein the first and second distal end tubes are splittable along the longitudinal plane from each other by removing at least a portion of each of the at least one tongue from at least a portion of each of the at least one groove..

Art Unit: 3742

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Sckweikert, Butler, Graf, Lurie, McIver, and Willard are cited to show structure similar to the claimed invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel I. Robinson whose telephone number is 571-272-4788. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 5:30am-2:30pm.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

dlr

DANIEL ROBINSON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
